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REMARKS

Claims 1-8, 10, and 12-18 are all the claims presently pending in the application.

Claims 1-2, 4-5, 7-8, and 10-13 are amended to more clearly define the invention and claims.

No new matter has been added. Claims 9 and 11 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 8, 10, 14, 19, and 21 are independent.

Claims 1-6 and 8-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Matsumoto et al. Claim 7 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being obvious with respect to Matsumoto et al. and in view of the Examiner's "official notice."

These rejections are respectfully traversed.

I. THE CLAIMED INVENTION

An exemplary embodiment of the claimed invention, as defined by, for example, independent claim 1, is directed to a stereoscopic image processing apparatus for calculating a parallax between a pair of images that includes correlation evaluating means for evaluating a correlation of brightness between a first pixel block provided in one of the pair of images and a second pixel block provided in the other of the pair of images and region size changing means for changing a size of the first and second pixel blocks in evaluating said correlation.

Further, in some embodiments, a boundary determining section may determine a boundary between two portions of the images. For example, the boundary may be the horizontal boundary between the road and objects above the road. The invention preferably calculates a parallax differently for objects on either side of the boundary. In other embodiments, the parallax is calculated differently based on ambient conditions, such as the weather.